

The Developer

Applied Developmental Psychology Student Group (ADPSG) http://adp.gmu.edu/adpsg George Mason University

ADPSG

President

Dhvani Patel dpatel7@gmu.edu



Vice President

Charlotte Anderson candersi@gmu.edu



Secretary

Elif Bor ebor@gmu.edu



Treasurer

Erin Richard erichar5@gmu.edu



Newsletter Editor

Todd Wyatt twyatt1@gmu.edu



Newsletter Associate

Krista D'Albenzio kdalbenz@gmu.edu



Web Development

Louis Manfra lmanfrai@gmu.edu



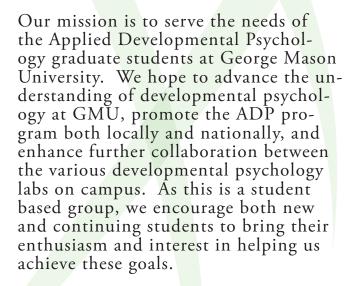
Faculty Advisor

Dr. Adam Winsler awinsler@gmu.edu



Welcome from the President

We are delighted to announce the beginning of our new Applied Developmental Psychology Student Group, ADPSG. In the past few years our department has grown tremendously, with an increase in the number of students and faculty members. This increase has stimulated much enthusiasm within the program, with students thrilled and excited to further enhance the Applied Developmental Psychology program here at George Mason University.



We at ADPSG would like to take this opportunity to welcome the prospective graduate students and encourage them to meet and mingle with other students and faculty members. We hope you enjoy your visit at GMU. For more information on ADPSG please visit: http://adp.gmu.edu/adpsg



About The Developmental Labs



Dr. Susanne Denham Development Lab

Dr. Denham is a professor at George Mason university, and previously has been an instructor at the University of Maryland, College Park, and a Guest Scientist at

the National Institute of Mental Health Developmental Psychology Laboratory. Her teaching and research interests include basic processes of social-emotional development, social cognition, and social competence, particularly in young children, as well as developmental psychopathology.

Over the past year her lab has experienced some truly exciting changes, including the conclusion of the forgiveness study data collection, which is an innovative look into the development of forgiveness, empathy, and emotional styles in children and their connections to parental and peer relationships. In addition, her students are nearing the end of data collection for a longitudinal investigation of children's emotional competence, its socialization, and its pathways to later social success in middle childhood. Her students are looking forward to take the next step of analyzing and reporting the findings from this data.

Additionally, her lab has been recently honored to receive a substantial grant through NICHD (The National Institute of Child Health and Human Development), ACF (Administration for Children and Families) and Head Start, to investigate the facets of social and emotional development that are related to children's school readiness, especially how to assess them. They are currently gearing up to begin the beginning phases of this study, which is sure to keep them busy for more than a just a little while.



Dr. Elyse Lehman Cognitive Devlopment Lab

Dr. Lehman is a professor and the Director of the Applied Developmental Psychology Program at George Mason University. Her

teaching and research interests include children's cognitive development, especially the development of memory and attention in elementary school age

children, and applications to special populations such as intellectually gifted children and children with disorders of attention (eg. ADHD).

Currently her lab is investigating parental beliefs about the development of attention and elementary achievement goal orientation in elementary school-age children. This project specifically examines maternal beliefs about the development of attention, in hopes to answer questions about how parents influence the development of attention in their children. The achievement goal orientation work looks at several correlates of the achievement goal orienation such as, temperament, intelligence, and classroom performance. Both projects will be presented at the Conference on Human Development in April, 2006.



Dr. Robert Pasnak Cognitive Intervention Lab

Dr. Pasnak has served on the faculty of the Catholic University of America, joined the George Mason University faculty in 1972.

His teaching and research interests are the development of children's thinking, particularly young and handicapped children or those at risk for cognitive delays. He has published four books and some of his work has appeared in The Journal of Experimental Psychology, Developmental Psychology, Journal of Experimental Child Psychology, Infant Behavior and Development and others.

For the last 20 years he has focused on helping children who lag in cognitive development to catch up to their peers. This has involved blind or mentally challenged youngsters, or those with ESL or minority status, but more often it is children who are behind their peers cognitively for no identifiable reason. He uses "learning set" methods to teach children the key cognitive constructs appropriate for their age, relying heavily on work by Piaget. He is currently examining which cognitive abilities are crucial for older and/or younger children, and trying to get a better understanding of the socio-emotional concomitants of increased cognitive competence. He also has a grant from Head Start, and is collecting data in the Northern Virginia area.



Dr. Johannes Rojahn

Dr. Johannes Rojahn, is a professor and the Director of the Center for Cognitive Development at George Mason University. He is also a Fellow of the American Psychological Association and the President elect

of Divison 33 (Mental Retardation) of the American Psychological Association. Dr. Rojahn earned his doctorate in Psychology degree at the University of Vienna (Austria) in psychology.

Dr. Rojahn was identified as the fifth most prolific author of databased, English language, research articles in journals of developmental disabilities. He has served as an Associate Editor for journals such as, Research in Developmental Disabilities and the American Journal on Mental Retardation. His teaching and research focuses on persons with mental retardation and developmental disabilities. His areas of particular interest are challenging behaviors and other forms of psychopathology (epidemiology, assessment, applied behavior analysis) and socio-emotional aspects of mental retardation and their relationship to interpersonal functioning.



Dr. Adam Winsler Language, Self-Regulation and School Readiness Lab

Dr. Winsler is an Associate Professor at George Mason University, where he also conducts research in his Language, Self-Regulation,

and Motivation Lab. Dr. Winsler (Ph.D. Stanford University) is also a fellow APA Division 7 and editor of the journal, Early Childhood Research Quarterly. Dr. Winsler's interests include; children's transition to school, the development of self-regulation, children's private speech, Vygotskian sociocultural theory; bilingualism, parent-child interaction, and the prevention of behavior disorders. His lab is composed of undergraduate, Master's, and Doctoral students working together on a variety of research projects. Although individually quite diverse, each of the projects conducted within the lab is typically linked by a common desire to understand links between children's social interactions

with parents and teachers, and children's language development, motivation, and/or self-regulation, with applications to school readiness and problems of executive control.

Current funded projects include a study of the Effect of Subsidized Child Care and Other Early Educational Interventions on the School Readiness of Diverse, Low-Income, Urban Preschoolers. This large-scale, university-community partnership, program evaluation, and applied research project involves maintenance and development of the master database for all child-level, classroomlevel, child care center-level, and family-level data involved in the Assessment-Intervention Program, sponsored by the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe. Each year, about 10,000 three and four year old low-income children attending state-subsidized child care/preschool programs are individually assessed on their cognitive, language, social, and motor skills at the beginning and end of the school year. These children are then longitudinally followed as they enter public schools.

Other projects in the lab examine a) relations between young children's private speech (self-talk), speech awareness, executive functioning, and performance on cognitive tasks in both typical children and children with ADHD or autism, and b) self-regulated learning and motivation as predictors of academic performance and retention among college students.

New Faculty, 2006

Dr. Koraly Perez-Edgar

We welcome Dr. Perez-Edgar, a Research Assistant Professor in the Department of Human Development at the University of Maryland, who will be joining the Applied Developmental Psychology program in August 2006. Dr. Perez-Edgar received her doctorate from Harvard University. Her current research interests include, the effects of early temperament on social be havior in adolescence, and the role of threat and attention in adolescent anxiety.

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STUDENT VOICE



Erin Hastings M.A. Student

"I am currently doing a practicum at the Alzheimer's Association (National Capital Area Chapter) in Fairfax. As part of my practicum, I am studying interventions that may help prevent memory loss in old age. There is some debate as to whether or not cognitive decline in late life is preventable. Studies

have suggested that there may be protective factors acquired early in life, such as mental exercise and nutrition. My main interest is how effective interventions are and what specific abilities they target. My duties include updating resources, answering helpline calls, and becoming trained to run "Maintain Your Brain" workshops. While at the Alzheimer's Association I have gained valuable experiences with and knowledge about cognitive problems that both normal and diseased adults encounter as they age. This experience will undoubtedly be very useful as I continue to follow my research interests of cognitive aging. After completion of my master's degree this May, I will continue on to earn a PhD at the University of Florida."



Jennia Herold M.A. Student

"I am a student in Dr. Lehman's Cognitive Development lab. For my last semester at GMU, I am currently doing a practicum at the National Head Start Association in Alexandria, Virginia. Although I have always been interested in the issues surrounding early child care, my

interest in the field grew even more after taking Dr. Winsler's Early Childhood Education, Childcare, and School Readiness course. By working at Head Start, I have been able to further expand my knowledge in areas. At Head Start I am responsible for conducting research, helping with memorandums, and locating polls and articles dealing with Head Start. I also have the opportunity to hear many politicians speak, I recently attended a talk given by Senator Pat Roberts, and will be attending another one next month by Governor Jeb Bush. Being at Head Start has broadened my knowledge in a variety of subjects, helped me network with others in the field, and allowed me to sharpen my research skills."



Melissa Mincic PhD. Student

"I am in my third year of the doctoral program at GMU, and am currently working on my master's thesis. I am examining children's perceptions of positive and negative parental behaviors as moderators of parent-child attachment and emotional parent-child communication. I plan to defend my thesis this se-

mester, after which I will be submitting the research as a paper at the 2007 bienniel meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development and also for journal publication. Writing a thesis has proven to be a challenging, yet extremely rewarding experience for me, both professionally and personally."



Vanessa Olson PhD. Student

"I am currently working on a project investigating achievement goal orientation in elementary school age children. Achievement goal orientation investigates the motivational pattern of response to a failure. Two achievement goal orientations have been researched

extensively; learning and performance goal orientation. Typically, learning oriented children choose challenging tasks, demonstrate higher effort and optimism for success in the future, and seek opportunities to increase their ability. On the other hand, performance oriented children avoid challenges, especially those that produce errors, tend to be more negative about their abilities and future success, and seek opportunities to document their abilities. Currently in Dr. Lehman's lab, we have developed a new measure, known as the Maze Task to further examine achievement goal orientation in older children. Additionally, we are investigating temperamental, and behavioral correlates of achievement orientation."

Why We the Lab & GMU!

"I love that as diverse as the students in the ADP program are; ranging in age and coming from across the world, we are all united by our passion for psychology."

- Charlotte Anderson



"I love our "kitchen" in the the developmental lab space."

- Jenny Crane

"I love the direct contact we have with kids, it makes me feel like we're making a difference."

- Krista D'Albenzio

"I love that our lab spaces represent temperatures from each of the four seasons. Where else but the developmental labs could you catch a mean case of spring fever (*Dr. Lehman's lab*), fan yourself in the intense summer heat (*Dr. Winsler's Miami room*), fall in and comfortably warm your chilled hands (*Dr. Pasnak's lab*), and shiver in an ice-cold winter breeze (*Dr. Denham's lab*) all along the same hallway? Here's to layering!

- Melissa Mincic



"I love the newly installed motion sensor lights in the lab, which turn off when there are no large movements in the room, leaving you flailing your arms up

and down to create *movement* as if motioning to bring down a 747 jetliner."

- Dhvani Patel

"I love the weekly brown bags and I like the fact that they are open to everyone, not just graduate students."

- Faye Huie

"I love teaching at GMU. Outside of my research, this is my outlet to express my creative side."

- Nate Tatro

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

For Prospective Students

How can I obtain additional funding?

Funds go quickly, so start looking EARLY. Potential sources of funding are research assistant positions, and/or teaching assistant positions. For information on research assistant positions talk to your advisor, and for information on teaching positions contact Dr. Hurley in the Psychology Undergraduate office at mhurley2@gmu.edu.

• Thesis or practicum?

Whichever best suits your current and future goals as a student. The thesis offers a great experience to design and conduct your own research if you'd like to present at conferences, publish, or learn more about a topic of interest. The practicum, on the other hand, offers very applied, hands-on experience that can be put to later use in the workplace. Focus on the kind of experience you want in terms of your current educational goals and future career plans to answer this question.

Are there any free workshops available for students?

Yes. The Writing Center, Learning Services, Mathematic Tutoring Center, Student Technology Assistance & Resource Center offer various workshops throughout the year in order to make your graduate school experience easier. For further information please visit http://www.gmu.edu/mlstudents/ and http://media.gmu.edu

• Where can I workout for FREE on campus?

The Aquatic and Fitness Center and the Field House are both FREE for full-time students. Just show them your Mason I.D., and you're in!

For more information please visit http://www.gmu.edu/service/aquatics/index.html

• Where can I obtain information about domicile classification?

To qualify for in-state tuition, you must have "in-state" status, which you establish after living in the state of Virginia for at least one year and have all the proper documentations. For more information visit http://registrar.gmu.edu/domicile/

• Are international students eligible for establishing domicile in VA?

The fact that an individual is a citizen of another country does not automatically disqualify that person from establishing domicile in Virginia. However, it depends on your immigration status. If you are not a U.S. Citizen you will need to present your immigration documentation to the institution. For further information please visit http://www.schev.edu/Students/VAdomicileInfo.asp?from=adminfaculty

• Do I have to register my car in Virginia?

Yes, especially if you are trying to obtain in-state status. However, if you are a full time student you are not required to do so. For more information please visit http://www.dmvnow.com/

Life Around the Lab...













Lab Publications, 2005-2006

Dr. Susanne Denham

Neal, K., Denham, S. A., & Bassett, H. H. (2006, March). Perceptions of parenting styles' effects on children's forgiveness. In C. Boyatzis (Chair), The development of forgiveness in children. Symposium conducted at the annual meeting of the Mid-Year Research Conference on Religion and Spirituality, Columbia, MD.

Mincic, M. S., Kalb, S. C., & Denham, S. A. (2006, March). Relations between children's social desirability and forgiveness. In C. Boyatzis (Chair), The development of forgiveness in children. Symposium conducted at the annual meeting of the Mid-Year Research Conference on Religion and Spirituality, Columbia, MD.

Wyatt, T., & Kalb, S. C. (2006, March). The relations among parental religiosity and children's developing forgiveness. In C. Boyatzis (Chair), The development of forgiveness in children. Symposium conducted at the annual meeting of the Mid-Year Research Conference on Religion and Spirituality, Columbia, MD.

Bassett, H. H., Denham, S. A., & Neal, K. (2006, March). "I'll forgive you if it was an accident:" Children's intrapersonal differences on attitudes toward forgiveness. In C. Boyatzis (Chair), The development of forgiveness in children. Symposium conducted at the annual meeting of the Mid-Year Research Conference on Religion and Spirituality, Columbia, MD.

Denham, S. A., Neal, K., Wilson, B. J., Pickering, S. R., & Boyatzis, C. (2005). Emotional development and forgiveness in children: Emerging evidence. In E. Worthington (Ed.), Handbook of forgiveness (pp. 127-142). New York: Brunner-Rutledge.

Mincic, M. S., & Denham, S. A. (2005, August). Models of attachment, perceptions of parental behaviors, and emotional communication. In M. A. Bell (Chair), Emotion and cognition in development. Symposium conducted at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association, Washington, D.C.

Mincic, M. S., Kalb, S., & Denham, S. A. (2005, August). Relations between social desirability and children's forgiveness. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association, Washington, D. C.

Kalb, S., & Denham, S. A. (2005, August). Perceptions of parenting and empathy development. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association, Washington, D. C.

Wyatt, T., Mincic, M. S., & Denham, S. A. (2005, August). 'I'll forgive you if. . .': Parent-child discourse about transgressions. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the a American Psychological Association, Washington, D. C.

Mincic, M. S., Yaworsky, M., Bassett, H. H., & Denham, S. A. (2005, April). Children's cognitions of forgiveness and parents' religiosity: Does home versus public schooling make a difference? Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Atlanta, GA.

Bassett, H. H., Denham, S., Mincic, M., & Wyatt, T. (2005, April). "I'll forgive you if it was an accident": Children's intrapersonal differences on attitudes toward forgiveness. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Atlanta, GA.

Dr. Elyse Lehman

Vanessa A Olson, Dhvani M. Patel, Jeffry D. Pattison, and Elyse B. Lehman. (2006) The Maze Task: Understanding Achievement Orientation Styles in Elementary School-Aged Children. Poster to be presented at the Conference on Human Development, Louisville, Kentucky.

Denise DeLitta, Vanessa Olson, Jeffrey Pattison, Jennifer Herold, Charlotte Anderson, Catherine Hastings, Elyse B. Lehman (2006 April). Parental Beliefs About the Development of Attention. Poster to be presented at the Conference on Human Development, Louisville, Kentucky.

Lehman, E.B., Olson, V.A., Patel, D.M., Pattison, J.D., & Burns, B.M. (2005, April). Attention in the classroom: Role of temperament and achievement goal orientation. Poster presented at the meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Atlanta, GA.

Lehman, E.B., Olson, V.A., Pattison, J.D., Patel, D.M., Cox, D.R., & Lavigne, J.O. (2005, April). Development of beliefs about factors that influence distractibility: Modality, duration, and semantic content. Poster presented at the meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Atlanta, GA.

Dr. Robert Pasnak

Campbell, J. L., Pasnak, R., & Gadzichowski, M. L. (in press) Number Conservation by an Autistic Person with Severe Perceptual and Motor Skills.

Pasnak R., Maccubbin, E., Campbell, J. L, & Gadzichowski, M. (in press) Using a fade-out method to teach seriation to a severely disabled child. Education and Training in Developmental Disabilities.

Dr. Adam Winsler

Madigan, A. L., & Winsler, A. (in press). Children exposed to domestic violence: Recommendations for parents, practitioners, and policy makers. Family Relations.

Lab Publications, 2005-2006

Abar, B., & Winsler, A. (2006). Authoritative parenting style. In N. J. Salkind (Ed.). The encyclopedia of human development. Vol 1. (pp.146-147). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage. Feder, M., & Winsler, A. (2006). Cooperative play. In N. J. Salkind (Ed.). The encyclopedia of human development. Vol 1. (pp.310-311). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Hartman, S., & Winsler, A. (2006). Resiliency. In N. J. Salkind (Ed.). The encyclopedia of human development. Vol 3. (pp.1075-1077). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Huie, F., Winsler, A., & Chrosniak, L. (2006, March). Motivation, self-regulation, and academic performance in working college students. Poster to be presented at the annual meeting of the Eastern Psychological Association. Baltimore, MD.

Tatro, N.A., Tran, H., Winsler, A., Huie, F., Bor, E., Evans, S., & Payne, P. (2006, March). Rise and shine: When teenage sleep needs and early school start times conflict. Poster to be presented at the annual meeting of the Eastern Psychological Association. Baltimore, MD.

Crane, J., D'Albenzio, K., & Winsler, A. (2006, June). Parentteacher agreement and child referral decisions in a subsidized childcare setting. Poster to be presented at the Eight Head Start National Research Conference. Washington, DC.

Hartman, S., Richard, E., Bor, E., Winsler, A., & Manfra, L. (2006, July). Socio-emotional and academic resilience in low-income preschoolers as predictors of academic performance during kindergarten. Poster to be presented at the biennial meeting of the International Society for the Study of Behavioral Development, Melbourne, Australia.

Fujioka, K., Winsler, A., & Conway, C. (2006, July). Developmental trends in relations between private speech use and task performance in young children. Poster to be presented at the biennial meeting of the International Society for the Study of Behavioral Development, Melbourne, Australia.

Hartman, S.C., Crane, J., McClaren, E., & Winsler, A. (2005, May). Preschool teacher- and parent-child attachment as predictors of kindergarten performance among children in poverty. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Society. Los Angeles, California.

Hartman, S.C., Crane, J., McClaren, E., & Winsler, A. (2005, May). Preschool teacher- and parent-child attachment as predictors of kindergarten performance among children in poverty. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Society. Los Angeles, California.

Manfra, L., Winsler, A., & Hartman, S.C. (2005, April). Relations between low-income preschoolers' self control and language development. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development. Atlanta, GA.

Dr. Johannes Rojahn

Jacobson, J. W., Mulick, J. A. & Rojahn, J. (Eds.) (in press), Handbook of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. New York: Springer.

Rojahn, J., & Naglieri, J. A. (in press). Developmental gender differences on the Naglieri Nonverbal Ability Test in a nationally normed sample of 5-17 year olds. Intelligence.

Man, M., Rojahn, J., Chrosniak, L., & Sanford, J. (in press). College students' romantic attraction toward peers with physical disabilities. Journal of Developmental and Physical Disabilities.

Naglieri, J. A., Rojahn, J. R., Matto, H. C., & Aquilino, S. A. (2005). Black White Differences in Cognitive Processing: A Study of the Planning, Attention, Simultaneous, and Successive Theory of Intelligence. Journal of Psychoeducational Assessment, 23, 146-160.

Rojahn, J. & Esbensen, A. J. (2005). Epidemiology of mood disorders in people with mental retardation. In P. Sturmey (Ed.): Mood disorders in individuals with mental retardation (pp. 47-66). Kingston, NY: NADD Press.

Esbensen, A. J. & Rojahn, J. (2005). Causes of mood disorders in people with mental retardation. In P. Sturmey (Ed.): Mood disorders in individuals with mental retardation (pp. 67-87). Kingston, NY: NADD Press.

Schreck, K. A., Mulick, J. A., & Rojahn, J. (2005). Parent Perception of Elementary School Aged Children's Sleep Problems. Journal of Child and Family Studies, 14, 101-109.

Dissertations Awarded in 2005

Michael Feder. Mental Health and Academic Skills of Sierra Leonean Children from Refugee Families.

Rene L. Hackney. Parents' Discipline Styles, Children's Verbal IQ and Prosocial Behaviors.

Karen L. Neal. The Relationship Between Children's Propensity to Forgive, Parent's Propensity to Forgive and Parenting Practices.

Julie I. Liebman. The developmental patterns and cognitive predictors of prosocial display rule behavior and understanding: Theory of mind and inhibitory control.

Amy Madigan. Implications of Interparental Conflict for Children's Self-Control and the Mediating Role of Parenting Practices

David W. Thompson. A computer-administered measure of sustained auditory selective attention in school age children.

Upcoming Conferences

Eastern Psychological Association

Baltimore, MD. March 16 - 19, 2006 http://www.easternpsychological.org/

Virginia Association for the Early Childhood Education

Roanoke, VA. March 23 - 25, 2006 http://www.vaece.org/

Society for Research in Adolescence

San Fransisco, CA. March 23 - 26, 2006 http://www.s-r-a.org/

Society for Research in Human Development

Fort Worth, TX. March 30 - April 1, 2006 http://www.hdfs.hs.iastate.edu/swsrhd/

Society for Research in Adult Development

Atlanta, GA. April 6 - 7, 2006 http://www.adultdevelopment.org/

American Educational Research Association

San Fransisco, CA. April 8 - 12, 2006 http://www.aera.net/

Conference on Human Development

Louisville, KY. April 28 - 30, 2006 http://www.kpa.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarti clenbr=184

American Psychological Association

New Orleans, LA. August 10 - 13, 2006 http://www.apa.org/

American Psychological Society

New York, NY. May 25 - 28, 2006 http://www.psychologicalscience.org/

Jean Piaget Society

Vancouver, Canada. June 2 - 4, 2006 http://www.piaget.org/

Head Start's 8th National Research Conference

Washington, DC. June 26 - 28. 2006 http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/opre/hsrc/

International Society for the Study of Behavioural Development

Australia. July 2 - 6, 2006 http://www.issbd2006.com.au/

International Conference on Infant Studies

Brisbane, Austrailia. *July 8 - 11, 2006* http://www.isisweb.org/

Society for Research in Child Development

Boston MA. Mar. 29 - Apr. 1, 2007 http://www.srcd.org/

Words from the Editor

This opening edition of *The Developer* is the first in what I hope to be a long list of newsletters that will give us as developmentalists an opportunity to highlight and discuss our independent and laboratory research ventures, to promote our department locally and nationwide, and to provide an open forum to discuss activities on the departmental and university level. This publication is a great opportunity for George Mason Applied Developmental Psychology students to get involved, voice their opinions, and help further the legacy that this program.

I would also like to welcome the prospective students (to whom this first edition is cordially dedicated). Please take this newsletter as an opportunity to get to know the Applied Developmental Psychology Program a little better, to answer questions that you may have, and to give yourself an idea of what a great community of scholars awaits you here at Mason!

In closing, I would like to take a moment to thank the students and faculty members for all their contributions to this newsletter, and for their enthusiasm for the new ADP Student Group. Thank you.

